

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1 to 24 have been amended as follows: Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikethrough~~ indicate deletions. For clarity purposes, deletion of the number 4 is denoted by [[4]].

Listing of claims:

1. (previously presented) A gel matrix for topical use on a subject having an epithelial surface to be immersed in water, said epithelial surface comprising mucus, mucosa or skin surface, the gel matrix comprising :

- about 15% w/w polyethylene glycol-150/decyl alcohol/saturated dicyclohexyl-methane diisocyanate copolymer, which confers to said matrix the characteristics of being insoluble but dispersible in water, and capable of adhering to said epithelial surface,
- a liquid carrier which is bio-compatible with said epithelial surface,
- the gel matrix having a viscosity, before application, of about 35-55 centipoises.

2. - 4. (cancelled)

5. (original) The gel matrix of claim 1, which further comprises a medication.

6. (original) The gel matrix of claim 5, wherein said medication is active towards a causative agent or a symptom affecting said surface.

7. (original) The gel matrix of claim 6, wherein said medication is one or more anti-ulcer, anti-microbial, anti-histaminic, anti-inflammatory, soothing, wound healing, anti-oxidant, sun screen, anti-UVs, anti-cancer, anesthetic and analgesic agents.

8. (original) The gel matrix of claim 5, wherein said medication is an organic oil.

9. (original) The gel matrix of claim 8, wherein said oil is a plant extract.

10. (original) The gel matrix of claim 9, wherein said plant oil extract has anti-infectious properties.

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The gel matrix of claim 10, wherein said plant oil is pine, clove, coriander or Sweet Birch oil.

13. (original) The gel matrix of claim 12, wherein said oil is present in a final concentration of 1-5 % (w/w).

14. (original) The gel matrix of claim 8, which further comprises an anti-oxidant.

15. (previously presented) The gel matrix of claim 1, which comprises 15 % (w/w) polyethylene glycol-150/decyl alcohol/saturated dicyclohexyl-methane diisocyanate copolymer.

16. (previously presented) The gel matrix of claim 15, which further comprises 32-45 % glycol-comprising solvent.

17. (previously presented) The gel matrix of claim 16, which has the following composition : polyethylene glycol-150/decyl alcohol/saturated dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate copolymer 15 %, ethoxydiglycol 34-45 %, oil 1-5 % and polysorbate 20 1-6 %, demineralised water 41.17 %, propyl gallate 0.1 %, sodium metabisulfite 0.25 %, sodium carbonate 0.05 %, dye yellow 5 LK (14-16%) 0.50 %.

18. (withdrawn and currently amended) A method of using a gel matrix ~~on a~~ subject having an epithelial surface, said gel matrix comprising:

~~a polyethylene glycol-150/decyl alcohol/saturated dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate copolymer, which confers to said matrix the characteristics of being insoluble but~~

~~dispersible in water, and capable of adhering to the epithelial surface to be immersed in water,~~
~~said epithelial surface comprising mucus, mucosa or skin surface,~~
~~a liquid carrier which is bio-compatible with said epithelial surface,~~
~~the gel matrix having a viscosity, before application, of about 35-55 centipoises,~~
according to claim 1, said method comprising topically applying said gel matrix on the epithelial surface of the subject.

19. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, wherein the subject is a fish.

20. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, wherein the gel matrix comprises about 15% (w/w) polyethylene glycol-150/decyl alcohol/saturated dicyclohexylmethane diisocyanate copolymer.

21. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 18, wherein said gel further comprises a medication.

22. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein said medication is one or more anti-ulcer, anti-microbial, anti-histaminic, anti-inflammatory, soothing, wound healing, anti-oxidant, sun screen, anti-UVs, anti-cancer, anesthetic and analgesic agents.

23. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein said medication is an organic oil extracted from a plant.

24. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 23, wherein said organic plant oil extract is pine, clove, coriander or Sweet Birch oil.